

# Family Support Services

## CATAWBA COUNTY JOBLINK CAREER CENTER

**JobLink Career Center** is comprised of a group of agencies committed to providing quality career planning, education, training and job placement services for citizens of Catawba County. The JobLink agency partners are Catawba County Social Services/Work First, Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC), N.C. Employment Security Commission, Vocational Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act and Experience Works. The JobLink Career Center served 10,682 customers during 2002-03. It is located on the CVCC-East Campus and the services are free. To learn more about JobLink visit [www.cvcc.edu/joblink/](http://www.cvcc.edu/joblink/) or call (828) 324-5650.

## CHILD SUPPORT

The **Child Support** program holds parents accountable for the financial responsibility of their children. This is achieved through a full range of services including locating absent parents, establishing paternity, establishing medical and financial support orders, and enforcing court-ordered support obligations.

These services are provided with timeliness, proficiency and professionalism. Enforcing parental responsibility to help meet the basic needs of children helps prevent them from becoming dependent on public assistance.



**Catawba County's  
12 Most Wanted  
NON-SUPPORTING PARENTS**

 <b>Calvin Grant Prince</b> DOB: 4/5/63 White Male 5'7" 135 lbs. Catawba, Lincoln or Guilford County \$25,158.08	 <b>Judith Pittman Schrewe</b> (Judy) DOB: 4/18/62 White Female 5'6" 135 lbs. Lincoln County \$1,888.39
 <b>Richie Lamer Linchberger</b> DOB: 4/25/74 Black Male 5'10" 185 lbs. Catawba County \$8,413.56	 <b>William D. Higgins Jr.</b> DOB: 3/1/79 White Male 5'9" 145 lbs. Catawba County \$8,096.00
 <b>Carroll Wayne Linchberger</b> DOB: 5/14/72 Black Male 6'0" 245 lbs. Cleveland County \$16,057.90	 <b>Edward Wayne Linchberger</b> DOB: 10/26/69 Black Male 6'0" 200 lbs. Catawba County \$27,837.49
 <b>Lori Ann Baldwin</b> DOB: 6/28/68 White Female 5'2" 145 lbs. Lincoln County \$56,661.00	 <b>Gary Dale Beatty</b> DOB: 6/11/76 White Male 6'0" 190 lbs. Catawba County \$5,411.00
 <b>Joseph Wesley Rich</b> DOB: 8/30/74 White Male 6'0" 155 lbs. Catawba or Burke County \$15,631.16	 <b>James Emmett Chise</b> DOB: 2/7/71 White Male 5'11" 220 lbs. Catawba County \$4,400.00
 <b>Roger Dale Goode</b> DOB: 6/19/66 White Male 5'9" 160 lbs. Forsyth County or Any area in N.C. (Truck Driver) \$4,795.43	 <b>Roy Henry Foster Jr.</b> DOB: 8/6/62 White Male 6'7" 210 lbs. Lake Wylie, S.C. area or Mecklenburg County \$31,674.20

**If you know the location of any of these individuals  
 call Child Support Enforcement at 828-695-4405.**

- 280 children benefited from Paternity Establishment
- 1,107 new court orders for support obtained
- 6,313 support orders being monitored for payment by Enforcement Unit
- 7,590 children benefiting from Child Support Services (monthly average)
- \$10,951,929 collected in child support payments

## DAY CARE PROGRAM

The **Day Care** program ensures safe, quality, accessible and affordable childcare for children, supporting the independence of families by enabling parents to secure and maintain employment and meet the basic needs of their children. Parents can go to work each day knowing that their children are in a safe, nurturing environment where they can learn and grow.

- 3,761 children served during 2002-03 (unduplicated)
- 140 licensed childcare providers participating each month (average)
- \$255 monthly average payment for daycare
- \$6,792,855 annual expenditure

## FAITH COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON POVERTY

The **Faith Community Task Force on Poverty**, comprised of representatives of various faith communities and governmental and non-profit service agencies, is a diverse group responding to the needs of people in poverty in the Catawba Valley. In partnership with citizens of the area, the Task Force explores ways to serve those in need and develop new community initiatives to help low income families move to self-sufficiency. The major project of the Task Force is "Work and Ride," which is a car donation project.

- 16 cars donated to the program
- 18 cars awarded to families

## FAMILY MEDICAID

**Family Medicaid** allows eligible clients to receive physician services, as well as routine preventive care for children, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, and prescriptions. The program also emphasizes prenatal care for pregnant women.

- \$26,745,958 paid to 451 medical providers for Catawba County children and families
- 17,728 minor children and their caretakers assisted by Medicaid

## NORTH CAROLINA HEALTH CHOICE FOR CHILDREN

**North Carolina Health Choice** is a health insurance program that serves children from working families. These families earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid, but cannot afford private health insurance. The families must meet specific guidelines and the children must be under age 19. The program is free to most. Some families, with higher incomes, must pay an annual premium, which can never exceed \$100 (regardless of the number of children enrolled from the family).

North Carolina has limited funds available for N.C. Health Choice. Because of the capped funding, a waiting list may be instituted at anytime when the program reaches or exceeds its funding limits.

- 2,417 Catawba County children assisted by N.C. Health Choice for Children during fiscal year 2002-2003

## FOOD STAMP PROGRAM

The **Food Stamp** program assures nutritious meals for low-income families. The number of persons in a household and the income and resources of those persons determine eligibility for the program. Eligibility also requires involvement in a Work Program. Able-bodied adults without children are limited to 3 months of benefits. However, this time limit is temporarily waived due to the economic conditions within Catawba County. This waiver will be reviewed in May 2004.

- 4,159 households served monthly (average), totaling 9,751 individuals
- \$191 monthly payment (average) per household
- 68.2% participants excluded from Work Program due to age or disability
- \$9,692,406 total value of food stamps issued

## PROGRAM INTEGRITY / INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

**Program Integrity** investigates and resolves questionable information on pending Family Support Services applications to prevent payments to ineligible families. It also assures citizens receive benefits to which they are entitled and in the correct amount. This program detects and determines client misrepresentation or worker error in active cases. Program Integrity recovers all overpayments made in public assistance program.

- 355 cases referred for investigation
- 197 cases under investigation
- 388 cases monitored for collections
- 131 cases reimbursed in full
- \$207,806 total collections/savings

## WORK FIRST

**Work First** enables citizens to become self-sufficient by linking them with resources and skills that help them secure and maintain employment. The program provides temporary short-term financial and medical assistance to low-income families. Participants must cooperate with Child Support, register with First Stop, complete the substance abuse screening, and actively participate in work-related activities leading to self-sufficiency.

- 405 Work First caseload (average)
- 1,284 families assisted by Work First (unduplicated count)
- 51.1% Work First cases are 'child only' cases
- 184 participants became employed
- \$216 average monthly payment

## WORK FIRST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

**Emergency Assistance** is a one-time cash aid for families with children who meet the age limit for work case assistance. This well-coordinated public/private effort for the eligible needy was created to protect children from crisis situations. Funds assist primarily with rent and utilities.

- 20 families assisted
- \$5,000 expended